

Application Serial No.: 10/720,126  
Reply to Office Action dated January 9, 2006,  
and the Advisory Action dated April 19, 2006

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) An outboard motor comprising:

an engine cover;

an engine disposed inside the engine cover and comprising a crankcase, a cylinder block and a cylinder head, which are operatively connected to each other in a horizontal direction in the engine cover;

a throttle body disposed in front of the crankcase;

an intake manifold extending from the throttle body to an intake port formed on the cylinder head and connected thereto, said intake manifold having a shape curved along an inner surface of the engine cover of the outboard motor and having a plurality of intake pipes in a vertical arrangement on a side of the engine;

an intake passage connected to the throttle body on an upstream side thereof; and

an intake duct connected to an upstream side of the intake passage and disposed in a space formed between a side surface of the engine and the intake manifold.

13. (Previously Presented) An outboard motor according to claim 12, further comprising a fuel injector unit disposed in the space formed between the side surface of the engine and the intake manifold nearer a side of the crankcase than a side of the intake duct.

14. (Currently Amended) An outboard motor according to claim 12, wherein the intake duct is provided with an air inlet formed at a ~~downstream~~ lower end side ~~end~~ of the intake duct in a vertical arrangement thereof.

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15. (Previously Presented) An outboard motor according to claim 14, wherein the air inlet formed on the intake duct is positioned above a lowermost one of the intake pipes.

16. (Canceled)